

POWER 2 will fight on despite Dufferin withdrawal

A new environmental group that recently sprung up to fight Dufferin Aggregates' proposal for a landfill in its landfill bordering Halton Hills and Milton will go on despite the company's withdrawal of its proposal, says group member Pam Sheldon.

"As long as there are quarries along the Niagara Escarpment, POWER 2 has a reason to exist," said Ms. Sheldon in an interview Thursday morning.

Protect Our Water Environmental Resources 2 set up a steering committee March 25 and it established a mandate to actively oppose any source with the goal of putting a landfill in the quarry, said POWER 2 member Jean Hilborn.

The mandate specifies any source, said Ms. Hilborn, because the group wants to ensure no applicant ever makes a proposal for a landfill at the Dufferin site.

Dufferin Aggregates withdrew its proposal Wednesday in a letter addressed to the Region because it didn't have local municipalities' support.

But Ms. Hilborn said the company could eventually sell the property and nothing would stop the new owners from making a similar proposal.

Ms. Sheldon fears if the Toronto garbage crisis worsens, and "I believe it will," the province could expropriate the land and use it as a landfill.

The garbage problem in Toronto eventually worsen, said Ms. Sheldon, because Toronto has

"been dragging its heels" on reducing and recycling garbage.

The group has set its sights on fighting any further quarrying or landfills being established on any part of the protected area of the escarpment, said Ms. Sheldon. Forcing the province to either establish a separate ministry to oversee the Niagara Escarpment Plan or have the plan placed under the jurisdiction of the ministry of the environment are two of the group's priorities.

The ministry of municipal affairs is currently responsible for enforcing the plan, she said. But Ms. Sheldon argues the ministry of municipal affairs is the "development arm for the province."

Ms. Hilborn said another part of the groups' suggested mandate is to promote and foster community awareness about the "serious implications" of a landfill at the Dufferin site and to further educate the public about the three R's - recycling, reduction, and reuse.

POWER 2 shouldn't be confused with POWER which was established in 1987 to fight the Reclamation Systems Incorporated (R.S.I.) proposal to use the Acton quarry for a landfill. However there are people who are members of both groups, said Ms. Hilborn.

Ms. Hilborn predicts the two groups will work together.

POWER has about 50 members including residents from Milton, those living in the area of Sideroad 9 and Highway 25 and residents living farther north, said Ms. Hilborn.

The group will hold a public meeting in the near future.

28-home subdivision approved by town

Halton Hills town council gave tentative approval last Monday for 28 homes and a commercial space to be built at the southwest corner of the Halton Hills/Erin town Line and Trafalgar Road intersection but not before council implored the developer to conduct further well studies in the area.

Paul Bowen from Terraprobe Limited - the developer's hydrogeologist - told councillors 15 of a possible 27 neighboring resident's wells were tested. Most tests showed the new development wouldn't adversely affect their water supply, he said. Three residents would have water problems, Mr. Bowen said, because they have shallow wells. But the consultant said two of the three homeowners are going to build new, deeper wells that will go into the bedrock thereby solving any potential water supply problem.

But councillors, led by Marilyn Serjeanston said the town is extra cautious about ensuring a sufficient water supply because on previous occasions developers have guaranteed a sufficient water supply but water supply problems have arisen.

Mr. Burnett also has to construct and test the wells of the 27 new homes for quantity and quality to the satisfaction of the Halton Regional Health Department, before final approval is given.

Mr. Bowen told council his firm tested three of the wells on the property and results show there would be sufficient water for all 28 homes. The wells could pump 30 gallons of water per minute and each house would only require one to two gallons of water per minute, said the consultant.



Sunday's Earth Day

Jan Southworth of the Woodview Centre presents a poster of the Earth to Rick Nodwell, principal of Park Public School. The presentation was in appreciation

of the upcoming "Earth Day" April 22. The moon's eye-view was presented to the school earlier this month. (Herald Photo)

Meeting will discuss Acton subdivision

Citizens will get a chance to voice their opinions about a developers' plan to build 16 townhouses and 20 apartments in the area of Cook Street and Victoria Avenue in Acton at an upcoming public hearing.

Halton Hills Council approved the public meeting last week. The exact date has yet to be set.

The property of Cobble Homes Co-operative, located between Cook Street and Victoria Avenue, is currently vacant and is zoned as a residential area, according to a town report.

But the proposed number of residences doesn't conform with the zoning so the applicant is requesting an amendment to the bylaw, the report says.

The town's building department has indicated that two fire hydrants will have to be established to support the development.

Halton Region has said it will support the proposal as long as the developer can assure the Region there is available water to supply the new housing.

Approval of the development

also depends on the developer's paying an as of yet undetermined amount of money to the town's parks and recreation department. This money is part of the town's standard planning procedure, said the town's parks and

recreation director, Tom Shepard.

The town's engineering department is satisfied with the developer's storm water study and predictions about anticipated traffic increase in the area.

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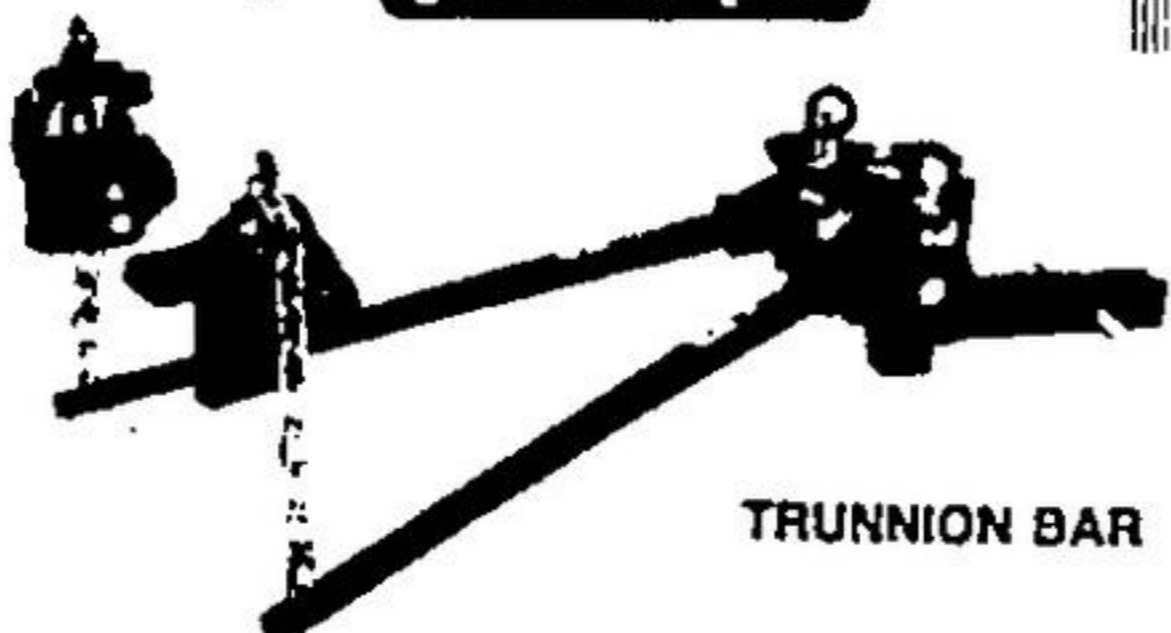
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